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Geografiya v Shkole, No 5, 1949.THE DONBASS REGAINS ITS PRE-EMINENCE

V. S. Chagan

The war has not killed the Donbass. On the contrary, the Donets Basin has again become, as it was before the war, the industrial fortress of the Soviet Union.

Now, there is not a single inactive coal mine in the Donbass; every shaft is supplying coal. Reconstructed and new mines will be able to provide 88 million tons of coal by the end of the current Five-Year Plan, which will be 3 million tons more than before the war. However, the importance of the Donets Basin as the main fuel-supplying basin of the country is declining; by the end of the Five-Year Plan, it will be supplying only 35-40 percent of the country's total requirements. As before the war, Khar'kov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Zaporozh'ye oblasts, which border on the basin, consume more than one third of total output.

While of extremely high quality, Donets coal has an ash content of up to 15 percent. Since it is irrational and uneconomical to transport coal with high ash content for great distances, coal-dressing plants are being built at the mines. During the current Five-Year Plan, 271 dressing plants are being built throughout the USSR. This will mean that of every 5 tons of coal produced with an ash content greater than 7 percent, 3 tons will be dressed at the place of production. Numerous dressing plants as well as new briquetting plants are being built in Stalino Oblast.

Today, there are eight ferrous metallurgical plants in Stalino Oblast, two in Voroshilovgrad Oblast, and one in Rostov Oblast, which are providing the country with ferrous metal.

In Stalino and Voroshilovgrad oblasts there are 13 large machine-building plants which produce heavy machinery needed in the Donbass. Heavy mining machinery is being produced by the Novo-Kramatorsk Plant imeni Stalin, the Staro-Kramatorsk Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze, the Gorlovka Mining Equipment Plant, and several others.

- 1 -

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Locomotives are being built by the Voroshilovgrad Locomotive Plant. Since 1945, tank cars have been built in Zhdanov.

Several million tons of coal are processed every year in Donbass coke-chemical plants.

At present there is not a single coke plant in the Donbass which does not have facilities for trapping its chemical waste products. No waste products escape into the air.

Figure 1 shows the interrelationships between industrial production as they currently exist in the Donbass.

- 2 -

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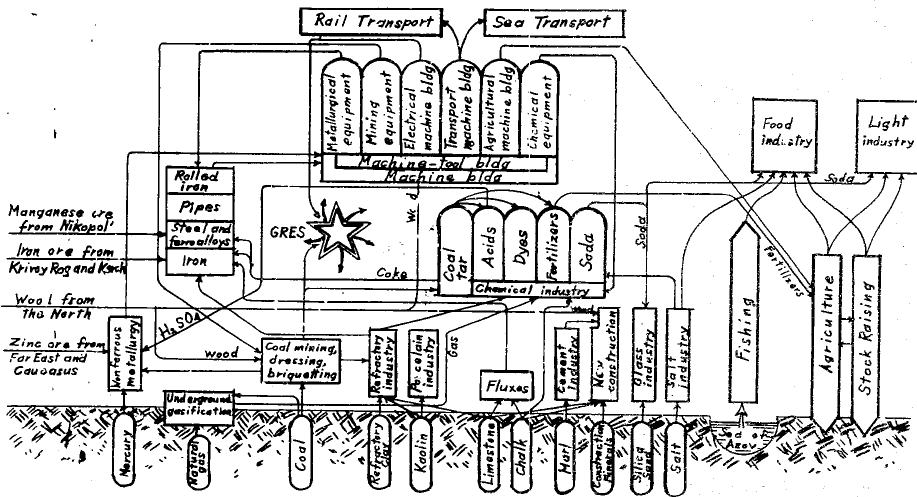


Figure 1. Interrelationships Between Industrial Production in the Donbass